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only unsightly, but will, in process of time, ruin the mount. If the cell walls were not entirely dry when the cell was closed, it is plain that the process of shrinkage had not yet been completed, and that it is yet to occur to a greater or less extent. What is the inevitable result? The fluid within the cell is practically incompressible, yet pressure is brought upon it. It has no space within its container into which it can retreat, and consequently it must force its way out of it. This it does slowly and gradually. It may be some time before it is noticed, but it is bound to come. The cement gives way at its weakest point, and the fluid exudes—"creeps" out. It is discovered, washed off and a fresh ring of cement applied. This puts off the evil day a while, but in a few months the process has to be repeated. Meanwhile the pressure is continuously exerted, and minute quantities of the mounting medium gradually infiltrate the walls at fresh points; the cement disintegrates, scales, and splits off. The remedy proposed is—*Never use a cell until the cement walls are thoroughly dry and hard.*—*Nat. Druggist, April 4, 1885.*

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The two Portuguese explorers, Captain Capello and Commander Ivens, arrived at Cape Town on July 16th, and left again soon afterwards for Mossamedes, with the intention of returning to Europe via the Congo. They have traversed a region which no European had ever set foot in, as leaving Mossamedes in March, 1884, they reached Quillimane, on the eastern coast to the south of Mozambique, in May last, having traveled over 4500 miles of territory, 3000 miles of which were previously unexplored. They discovered the sources of the Lualaba, an affluent of the Congo, which has been so frequently referred to at recent geographical discussions. They also came upon a region which is extraordinarily rich in copper, this being the district of Yaranganga, situated between the Lualaba and the Luapula. They also made a discovery which may be of great use to commerce and science. It has often been remarked that the venomous African fly, the tsetse, which did so much mischief to cattle in the south-east of Africa, and had almost extinguished trade between Delagoa bay and the Transvaal, had totally disappeared of late. Messrs. Capello and Ivens found that this fly was still very abundant further north, and that, as had often been stated before, it was always to be seen where there were plenty of elephants. Stanley, in the course of his travels, had observed the same phenomenon, and it follows, therefore, that the region explored by the two Portuguese travelers is rich in ivory.—*English Mechanic.*

— *Editor AMERICAN NATURALIST*:—Mr. M. C. Read has called my attention to the fact that he has been misrepresented by the text as it stands printed on p. 25 of my report upon petroleum to the Census office. No one can blame a man of Mr. Read's intelligence for objecting to being made responsible for the following sentence: "Mr. Read asserted that there were several bottomless pits of petroleum beneath an intensely hard, cherty limestone, very difficult to drill." If the previous sentence is joined to the one just quoted and the words "Mr. Read" replaced by the word "who," the text would then stand as it was intended by myself. So many stupid and blundering changes were made in my text in Washington, that I am thankful no greater injustice has been done any of the numerous authors whom I have quoted. While many of these changes were discovered and the reading restored as originally written by myself, I am aware that some of them were overlooked and still remain. Very respectfully,

S. F. PECKHAM.

BRISTOL, R. I., Oct. 5, 1885.

— The Zoölogical Garden of Cincinnati is in a flourishing condition, and has some especial points of attraction. It possesses probably the finest mandrill in the world. He is twelve years old, and presents, from year to year, without diminution, the gorgeous colors which the adult male only exhibits. The largest polar and grizzly bears in America are in the collection, and there is a fine Thibetan bear. Among birds there is the Manchurian pheasant (*Crossoptilum manchuricum*), a species we have not previously seen in any American garden.

— The St. Louis Botanical Garden, or Shaw's Garden, is a feature of that city which deserves imitation elsewhere. It was established and is sustained by the liberality of Mr. Shaw, a private citizen. Full representations of the species of several of the genera peculiar to our south-western regions are to be found there, *e. g.*, yucca and agave. A fine private collection of plants is that of Mr. Wm. Brown. His palm house and fern house are highly ornamental, while in another house nearly if not quite all the species of *Nepenthes* are represented.

— Charles Wright, of Wethersfield, the well-known botanical collector, who graduated at Yale College in 1835, died suddenly of heart disease Aug. 11th, aged seventy-four years. Mr. Wright was one of the leading botanists of the country. He was employed by the Government in an expedition to Texas and Arizona and had also botanically explored Cuba. Last year Harvard College secured his collection of plants. Several American plants are named after him. He was formerly a valued contributor to the *AMERICAN NATURALIST*.

— The *Geological Magazine* is now twenty-one years old, and in view of the great usefulness of the magazine and the unrequited labors of the chief editor, Dr. H. Woodward, in charge of the palæontological department of the British Museum, his friends are subscribing funds to present him with a testimonial, of which a piece of plate will form a part. We should be happy to receive and forward any subscriptions from friends of the editor in the United States.

— We are glad to learn, from an article by Dr. C. T. Hudson in the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society*, that a monograph of the Rotifera, by Mr. P. H. Gosse and himself, is in course of preparation. Such a work will be warmly welcomed by microscopists in this country.

— Professor W. C. Kerr, State geologist of North Carolina for eighteen years, and more recently connected with the United States Geological Survey, died at Asheville, N. C., Aug. 9th, of consumption. He was an excellent observer and a most genial, companionable man.

— Dr. Henry William Reichardt, professor of botany in the University of Vienna, died while in a fit of temporary insanity lately. The majority of his papers were published in the *Journal of the Vienna Academy*. He was born at Iglau in 1835.

— Messrs. M. Schlosser and Otto Meyer, of the Yale College Museum of Palæontology, have returned to Germany. These gentlemen have made important contributions to geology and palæontology.

— Professor Worsae, the distinguished Danish archæologist and curator of the vast museum at Copenhagen, died in August.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, June 9.—Mr. Ford referred to the presence of *Littorina irrorata* at South Atlantic City, and stated his belief that there were but three generations of the species at that locality. He also exhibited specimens of *Exogyra forniculata* from Kansas, the first examples of the species known to have been collected in the State.

Dr. G. A. Koenig described a mineral allied to franklinite, and found at Franklin, N. J. The zinc of franklinite is replaced by iron to such an extent as to reduce it from twenty or thirty to one and a half per cent, the manganese remaining unchanged. He proposed to name it manganoferrite.